



# Child Safeguarding Statement

## Netball Ireland Overview

Netball Ireland (NI) provides sporting activities and opportunities for young people through participation in clubs, training events and national squads. NI are committed to safeguarding young people (defined as any person under 18 years of age) under the guidance of NI's child protection and safeguarding policies.

NI is committed to the enjoyment of netball by young people. It values and encourages the participation of parents, coaches and volunteers in netball activities for young people. The NI policies regarding child protection and safeguarding are to respect and ensure the safety, dignity and rights of young people involved in netball in the Republic of Ireland.

All NI members, volunteers and staff working throughout the organisation seek to create a safe environment for young people to participate in netball activities.

## Principles to safeguard children from harm

This statement recognises that in accordance with legislation (Children First Act 2015; Section 11(1)(b)) and in line with NI's policies and ethos, that the welfare and interests of young people are paramount in all circumstances. It aims to ensure that all young people have a positive, developmental experience of netball when participating in NI activities and that they do so, as far as is practicable, in a safe and enjoyable environment.

## Risk Assessment

NI carried out a risk assessment for any potential harm to a child while involved in netball activity. These risks were categorised under the following headings:

- Recruitment;
- Club and Coaching Practices;
- Reporting complaints and concerns;
- Facilities;
- Communication; and
- General Risk of Harm.

The assessment reviewed the areas of potential risk of harm, the likelihood of the risk occurring, and gives the required policy, guidance and monitoring required to manage these risks. See Appendix 1 at the end of document for NI's full Risk Assessment (NI-5016).

Risk Identified	Policy in Place
Risk of harm, including assault, ill treatment or neglect of a child in a manner that seriously affects or is likely to seriously affect the child's health, development or welfare, and/or sexual abuse of a child.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy (NI-1022)</li> <li>● Child Safeguarding and Child Abuse Policy (NI-1023)</li> <li>● Safe Recruitment Policy (NI-1029)</li> <li>● Garda Vetting Policy (NI-1025)</li> <li>● Code of Conduct (NI-1011)</li> <li>● Safeguarding Training Policy (NI-1024)</li> </ul>
Risk of harm or abuse when hosting an activity and/or an away trip.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy</li> <li>● National Player Contract Under 18 (NI-3008)</li> <li>● Travelling with Young People Policy (NI-1028)</li> <li>● Young People Travel Permission form (NI-3009)</li> <li>● Code of Conduct</li> </ul>
Risk of harm or abuse through Social Media and/or Mobile Communications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy</li> <li>● Electronic Communication with Young People Policy (NI-1026)</li> <li>● Social Media Policy (NI-1030)</li> <li>● Photographic/Video Images of Young People Policy (NI-1027)</li> </ul>
Bullying and/or harassment of a child.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy</li> <li>● Child Safeguarding and Child Abuse Policy</li> <li>● Anti Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying and Victimisation Policy (NI-1013)</li> <li>● Inclusion Policy (NI-1012)</li> <li>● Code of Conduct</li> </ul>

The procedures contained in our risk assessment support our intention to safeguard children while they are availing of our services.

NI has the following procedures in place as part of NI's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policies:

- Procedure in respect to the management of allegations of abuse against any member, non-member or staff or volunteer of a child availing of our services.
- Procedure for the safe recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers with regard to their suitability to work with children.
- Procedure for provision of and access to child safeguarding training and information including the identification of the occurrence of harm.

NI's Child Safeguarding Statement (CSS) has been prepared in accordance with the legislative requirements contained in the Children First Act 2015, and the guidance set out in *Children's First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017)* and *Tusla's Child Safeguarding: A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice 1995*.

- Procedure for the reporting of child protection or welfare concerns to a NI representative and Tusla.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person – the NI Child Protection Officer (CPO) shall be the relevant person (i.e. the first point of contact in respect of this statement).
- Procedure in place for the appointment of Designated Liaison Persons at Club and National level.
- Procedure in place for the appointment of Children’s Officers at Club and National level who shall also be the relevant persons.
- Procedure in place for maintaining the name of the person who is the Mandated Person by NI.

*The **NI Mandated Person**, who has a legal obligation to report harm of children as per Children First Act 2015, is **Mary Kelly** (Child Protection Officer): phone 086/8233675 or email [childprotection@netballireland.com](mailto:childprotection@netballireland.com).*

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been prepared in accordance with the requirements contained in the Children First Act 2015. NI is committed to the implementation and compliance of this CSS and recognise that this is an ongoing process.

**This CSS will be reviewed within 24 months of the date below.**

**Netball Ireland President**

**Name:** Lynette Wall

**Signature:** 

**Date:** 03/06/2021

**Netball Ireland Child Protection Officer**

**Name:** Mary Kelly

**Signature:** 

**Date:** 14/05/2021

## Appendix 1: NI's Risk Assessment

Step 1: Identify the risks	Step 2: Assess the risk		Step 3: Additional actions needed		
<b>What are the risks of harm?</b> <i>Identify categories where there is potential harm to a child involved in netball activity.</i>	<b>Who is at risk?</b> <i>Identify people within the organisation who are potentially at risk of harm.</i>	<b>Level of risk</b> <i>Estimate level of risk – High, Medium, Low – based on the current practices.</i>	<b>Policy</b> <i>Procedure in place to address the risk</i>	<b>Guidance</b>	<b>Monitoring</b>
<b>Recruitment</b> Risk of recruiting inappropriate people to work with young people <u>Considerations:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NI is a small organisation with limited coaching expertise</li> <li>• All current youth coaches/volunteers successfully completed the necessary vetting requirements</li> <li>• NI have put in place a recruitment and training process for coaches of young people.</li> </ul>	Young people	High	Safe Recruitment Policy Garda Vetting Policy Safeguarding Training Policy	Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children	Vetting renewals every 3 years Safeguarding training renewal every 3 years Report keeping/ Audits required by NI CPO

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Step 1: Identify the risks	Step 2: Assess the risk		Step 3: Additional actions needed		
What are the risks of harm?	Who is at risk?	Level of risk	Policy	Guidance	Monitoring
<p><b>Club and Coaching Practices</b></p> <p>Risk if relevant staff and volunteers are not aware of the child protection and safeguarding policies as it relates to club and coaching practices</p> <p><u>Considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk of harm if there is not a consent form for each player Under 18 years of age, with parental permission, with relevant medical information and permission to participate, photographic permission and travel consent</li> <li>• Code of Conduct for age-grade players and parents published and/or on view</li> <li>• Risk of harm if staff and volunteers do not know policies in relation to supervision, social media and photographs</li> <li>• Risk of harm if staff and volunteers are not aware of travel and away trips procedures</li> <li>• Risk of harm of abuse, including online, through bullying and inappropriate use of social media</li> </ul>	Young people	High	Player Contract Under 18s  Travelling with Young People Policy  Young People Travel Permission Form  Code of Conduct  Photographic/Video Images of Young People Policy  Social Media Policy  Anti Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying and Victimisation Policy	These policies have been made known to those working with young people and children and are available on our website	CPO to ensure all national and club coaches and team management are informed of policies  Coaches and team management to familiarise themselves with policies

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What are the risks of harm?	Who is at risk?	Level of risk	Policy	Guidance	Monitoring
<p><b>Reporting complaints and concerns</b></p> <p>Risk of harm if complaints and reporting procedures are not in place</p> <p><u>Considerations:</u>            Risk of harm (physical, emotional, sexual abuse or neglect) of a child by a staff/volunteer/child if reporting procedure not known</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Name of Mandated person/DLP as per the CSS or Club information</li> <li>• The NI Mandated Person is listed on the Child Safeguarding Statement</li> <li>• Parents know how to raise a concern</li> <li>• Youth players can make their concerns known</li> <li>• Do all those involved with youth netball know how to raise a concern with CPO or CCO and/or to follow reporting process?</li> <li>• Staff/volunteers know how to deal with complaints and raise a concern using case management form</li> </ul>	<p>Young people</p> <p>Staff / volunteers who do not know procedures</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy</p> <p>Child Safeguarding and Child Abuse Policy</p> <p>CSS</p> <p>Safeguarding Training Policy</p>	<p>These policies have been made known to those working with young people and children and are available on our website.</p> <p>Reporting procedures are outlined in detail in the Child Safeguarding and Child Abuse Policy</p> <p>Child Safeguarding information needs to be disseminated among youth players</p>	<p>CSS to be reviewed every 2 years</p> <p>NI website to be updated regularly</p> <p>Policies to be disseminated to young people, parents, coaches and members regularly</p> <p>Safeguarding training to be renewed every 3 years</p>

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<b>Step 1: Identify the risks</b>	<b>Step 2: Assess the risk</b>		<b>Step 3: Additional actions needed</b>		
<b><i>What are the risks of harm?</i></b>	<b><i>Who is at risk?</i></b>	<b><i>Level of risk</i></b>	<b><i>Policy</i></b>	<b><i>Guidance</i></b>	<b><i>Monitoring</i></b>
<p><b>Facilities</b></p> <p>Risk of harm when using facilities</p> <p><u>Considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If hiring facilities has the squad / club checked that appropriate safeguarding procedures have been put in place</li> <li>• Anti-bullying statement is made available to all staff for display and distribution to young people and parents at camps, etc.</li> <li>• Appropriate medical procedures are in place at the facility</li> </ul>	<p>Young People</p> <p>All Players</p>	<p>Medium/High</p>	<p>Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy</p> <p>Anti Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying and Victimisation Policy</p> <p>Code of Conduct</p>	<p>These policies have been made known to those working with young people and children and are available on our website.</p>	<p>CPO to support coaches and team management when required</p>

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What are the risks of harm?	Who is at risk?	Level of risk	Policy	Guidance	Monitoring
<p><b>Communication</b></p> <p>Risk of harm if not communicating with staff, volunteers, parents and players</p> <p><u>Considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Safeguarding Statement and all child protection and safeguarding policies communicated to members and staff so there is high awareness of safeguarding information</li> <li>• CPO/CCO visible and contactable if harm is identified</li> <li>• Safeguarding information made available so that young people, parents and players know standards of behaviour</li> </ul>	<p>Young people and Children</p> <p>Coaches / Volunteers</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Child protection and safeguarding policies</p> <p>CSS</p> <p>Code of Conduct</p>	<p>These policies have been made known to those working with young people and children and are available on our website.</p> <p>Child Safeguarding information needs to be disseminated among youth players and their parents.</p>	<p>NI's Website Development Officer and Press Officer to assist, as requested, with the sharing of the Child Protection and Safeguarding information</p> <p>NI's Secretary and League Administrator, as requested, to assist in sharing of information to members and affiliated clubs</p> <p>CPO to ensure all information is current and relevant</p>

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<b><i>What are the risks of harm?</i></b>	<b><i>Who is at risk?</i></b>	<b><i>Level of risk</i></b>	<b><i>Policy</i></b>	<b><i>Guidance</i></b>	<b><i>Monitoring</i></b>
<p><b>General Risk of Harm</b></p> <p>Risk of untrained people working with young people</p> <p><u>Considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coaches completed relevant Sport Ireland safeguarding training and are informed of NI child protection and safeguarding policies</li> <li>• Risk of harm (physical, emotional, sexual abuse or neglect) of a child by a staff/volunteer/child if coaches are not trained</li> </ul>	Young People	High	<p>Child protection and safeguarding policies</p> <p>Safeguarding Training Policy</p>	<p>These policies have been made known to those working with young people and children and are available on our website.</p> <p>Training and understanding needs to be monitored on an ongoing basis</p>	Regular communications with coaches and clubs to ensure compliance with child protection and safeguarding policies

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